

CHAPTER III.

GROSS YIELD AND OUTTURN OF FOREST PRODUCE.

I.—DEPARTMENTAL OPERATIONS.

(a).—TIMBER.

139. A comparative statement of the timber exploited departmentally from the forests with the cost of the operations and the revenue realized therefrom is given below :—

Division.	1895-96.			1896-97.		
	Timber in Cubic feet.	Cost.	Receipts.	Timber in Cubic feet.	Cost.	Receipts.
		Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
East Khándesh ...	22,985	1,186	7,654	20,960	2,163	4,752
West Khándesh ...	115,600	3,507	41,959	102,141	3,399	23,451
Násik ...	36,741	...	348	564	...	74
Ahmednagar ...	33,004	903	7,285	39,864	594	1,463
Poona ...	14,081	3,331	12,448	20,178	1,908	9,341
Sátára ...	21,325	2,541	15,219	81,123	3,220	10,487
Sholápur ...	...	...	...	...	10	...
Total ...	243,736	11,468	84,913	264,830	11,294	49,568

140. In East Khándesh Division the prices obtained from teak were very low. The teak exploited from the coupes in the Yával Sápudás had to be carried 36 miles on pack bullocks to the temporary sale depôt at Faizpur, a market town in the Tápti Valley, as purchasers and contractors would not buy the timber when stacked in the coupes.

141. In the West Khándesh Division a large portion of timber remained unsold.

142. In the Násik Division there are no departmental operations proper for the extraction of timber, but the wood cut on boundary lines during the demarcation of forest boundaries in the Peint Range realized Rs. 74.

143. In the Ahmednagar Division 13,991 teak trees were exploited from the coupes under working plans, the cost amounted to Rs. 525 and the sales realized Rs. 1,463. 2,850 jambul (*Eugenia*) trees were felled in river beds in the Sangamner Range at a cost of Rs. 69, but this material was not sold, for there were no bids for it.

144. In the Poona Division 20,176 cubic feet of timber were cut at a cost of Rs. 1,908, out of which 19,176 cubic feet were sold for Rs. 9,341 and 1,000 were used to form posts for wire fencing in the Haveli Range.

145. In the Sátára Division departmental operations were undertaken in 9 ranges out of 14. The timber exploited in 8 ranges was teak and that exploited from a reserved forest on the bank of the Krishna river in the Tásgaon Range was bábul.

146. There were no departmental operations in the Sholápur Division.

(b).—FIREWOOD AND CHARCOAL.

147. The following statement furnishes the comparative transactions of two years :—

Division.	1895-96.			1896-97.		
	Firewood in Cubic feet.	Cost.	Receipts.	Firewood in Cubic feet.	Cost.	Receipts.
		Rs. •	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
East Khándesh ...	760,905	4,102•	11,812	827,370	3,922	7,516
West Khándesh ...	457,119	2,494	13,421	467,991	2,537	6,062
Násik ...	2,212	10	111	3,847	68	95
Ahmednagar ...	23,407	...	358	9,070	...	37
Poona ...	93,839	503	1,625	566,160	3,390	7,316
Sátára ...	719,395	5,392	8,145	627,260	3,484	4,125
Sholápur ...	418	1	21	1,916	9	100
Total ...	2,057,295	12,502	35,493	2,503,614	13,410	25,251

148. In East Khándesh Division firewood cut in some of the coupes in Chálisgaon, as well as that at Nimkheda in Bhusával, and Therala in Edlabad, to meet tradè demands, could not sell, owing to the slackness of business, and steam cotton mills not working and not consuming wood to the extent of ordinary years. The scope of departmental fellings of trees standing in disforested lands had also to be curtailed as wood was practically unsaleable.

149. The West Khándesh firewood fellings consisted of anjan (*Hardwickia*) in the Dhulia and Pimpalner ranges and of khair (*Acacia*) in Nizámpur; prices were good. 81,937 cubic feet of firewood remained unsold at the close of the year.

150. The firewood cut in the Násik forests was supplied to famine kitchens and only the charges which had been incurred in cutting and cartage were charged to Famine Fund; no profit was demanded.

151. In the Ahmednagar Division there are no departmental firewood fellings. All trees in the coupes are sold on foot in accordance with the provisions of the working plans of the bábul blocks. Loppings of teak and jambul trees exploited for timber are sold as firewood.

152. In the Poona Division dead fallen trees in the bábul forests are felled and removed for sale departmentally, and some coupes which could not find purchasers were worked by hired labour under departmental directions and supervision. Out of 568,190 cubic feet of firewood, 200,918 cubic feet remained unsold at the close of the year.

153. In the Sátára Division out of 627,260 cubic feet of firewood exploited by departmental agency, 116,420 cubic feet of firewood remained unsold at the close of the year.

154. In the Sholápur Division there are no departmental firewood fellings to speak of. All trees in the coupes are sold on foot in accordance with the provisions of the working plans of the bábul blocks.

(c).—BAMBOOS AND (d).—SANDALWOOD.

155. No departmental operations were undertaken under these heads.

— — — (e).—GRASS AND OTHER MINOR PRODUCE.

156. As a famine relief measure, the collection of grass and its exportation to the famine-affected parts of the Deccan were undertaken during the year under the direction of the Honourable Mr. Shuttleworth, Conservator of Forests, 1st Grade, who was employed on special duty for the purpose. Enormous quantities of grass were collected, compressed into bales by steam-power as well as by bullock-power and by hand-presses, in the East Khándesh, Thána, Poona, Sátára, Belgaum, Kánara and Dhárwár districts, and the bales were sent by railway to stations in the Násik, Ahmednagar, Poona, Sholápur and Bijápur districts, where

they were distributed. In addition thereto quantities of loose grass collected in the Poona, Násik and Sátára districts in the ranges bordering the Syhádris were sold locally without undergoing baling. The revenue derived for the hirda, myrabolan, during the year of the report and the previous year shows as under :—

Year.			Yield.	Price.
			K. • m. lbs.	Rs.
1895-96	...	...	1,775 1 25	5,344
1896-97	...	...	1,486 24 9½	20,396

157. In the Násik Division the hirda fruit was collected departmentally. The year was a bad one, and the crop poor, but notwithstanding the results were fair.

158. Forty khandis of hirdas represented the yield of the Akola Range of the Ahmednagar District and they were sold at the rate of Rs. 35 per deshi khandi.

159. In the Poona Division a balance of 35 Bombay khandis collected departmentally in 1895-96 was sold at Rs. 33 per khandi.

160. In the Sátára Division it was intended to farm out the right to collect hirda throughout the district, but owing to no adequate offers being made for several ranges, the right was only farmed out in the Mahábaleshvar, Pátan and Shirála ranges; while in the Jávli, Wái and Sátára ranges the hirda was collected departmentally. Difficulty was experienced in selling this hirda owing to the low prices ruling generally in the city of Bombay.

4,800 cubic feet of bábul bark stripped off the trees felled in the Burli coupe of the Tásgaon Range were sold for Rs. 110.

II.—REMOVAL OF PRODUCE BY PURCHASERS.

(a).—TIMBER.

161. The following table compares the results of the past two years :—

Division.				1895-96.		1896-97.	
				Cubic feet.	Revenue.	Cubic feet.	Revenue.
					Rs.		Rs.
East Khándesh	...	...	...	106,650	2,518	14,146	629
West Khándesh	...	...	...	174,938	12,725	183,531	13,437
Násik	...	...	...	1,590,549	92,070	529,670	52,139
Ahmednagar	...	...	...	12,080	371	.....	265
Poona	...	...	...	25,752	12,801	23,525	4,659
Sátára	...	...	...	2,580	1,456	2,233	1,688
Sholápur	...	...	...	8,400	2,275	.....	2,342
Total				1,920,949	1,24,216	753,105	75,159

162. In the East Khándesh Division the outturn under this head has dwindled down very much owing to an almost total absence of demand for wood in the market. The Bhils who subsist ordinarily on bartering and selling wood forsook their ordinary occupation and turned for their livelihood to grass-cutting and carrying it from the Sátputa forests for sale in villages in the plains to the public, and they also employed themselves as labourers in cutting grass for Government.

163. On some disforested lands in West Khándesh trees were sold on foot to be cleared away by the purchasers at their own expense.

164. In the Násik Division prices ruled very low and two contracts were cancelled and not resold.

165. In the Ahmednagar Division trees in the evergreen forests were sold on fees to villagers in 44 villages along the gháts in Akola and 6,039 trees were thus exploited.

166. The heavy fall in receipts in the Poona Division is due to the fact that in 1895-96 the whole of the revenue under this head was due to the sale of teak trees on foot at 1 rupee per tree; whereas in 1896-97 only 2,338 royalty trees could be sold on foot at the prescribed rate, and the remaining half of the revenue was due to the price obtained for the sale of teak coupes (standing).

167. In the Sátára Division an attempt was made during the year to introduce the Thána system of selling the coupes on foot, but it proved a failure, with the exception of the Degaon Coupe No. 9, which was sold for Rs. 510 only; and some 939 teak and 358 sandalwood trees standing upon cultivation lands outside of forest boundaries were sold to survey occupants.

168. In the Sholápur Division only two coupes were exploited this year, but prices paid for them were good.

(b).—FIREWOOD.

169. A comparison between the two years is given below:—

Division.	Cubic feet.		Revenue.	
	1895-96.	1896-97.	1895-96.	1896-97.
			Rs.	Rs.
East Khándesh	661,770	385,898	5,515	3,908
West Khándesh	201,341	97,128	7,216	2,205
Násik	266,236	272,142	5,487	5,195
Ahmednagar	39,875	33,509	3,327	2,267
Poona	806,100	351,367	6,046	8,913
Sátára	7,209	9,007	194	217
Sholápur	20,238	12,200	192	682
Total	2,002,829	1,161,251	27,977	23,387

170. In the two Khándesh divisions no coupes of standing trees were sold during the year, and all the exploitations were made on permits by villagers for the needs of local supply. A sum of Rs. 18 was received on account of firewood sold on foot from disforested lands in West Khándesh.

171. In the Násik Division a great deal of firewood was disposed in coupes under the working plans.

172. In accordance with the provision of the working plans the bábul forests of the Ahmednagar Division were exploited. Forty-six coupes were put into the market, but only 30 found purchasers, and 16 remained unsold: 186 acres were worked under clear fellings and 10,467 trees, yielding according to rough estimate 31,320 cubic feet, were felled, realizing Rs. 2,350. The prices offered were poor.

173. In the Poona Division the coupe sales were satisfactory, but in the Sátára and Sholápur divisions there were practically no sales.

(c).—BAMBOOS.

174. All bamboos are removed on permits by payment of fees in the Khándesh District.

175. The contract for bamboos in the Peint Range of the Násik District was taken at Rs. 3-3-6 per 100, but only 39,850 were exploited instead of 100,000 as contracted for, the contractors stating that the absence of grass and drinking

water for cattle prevented their working up to the full of their agreements. In the other ranges of Násik, as well as in the other divisions, bamboos were removed on permits.

176. The following table shows the quantities exploited and their values :—

Division.	1895-96.		1896-97.	
	Number.	Revenue.	Number.	Revenue.
		Rs.		Rs.
East Khándesh ...	745,998	7,802	452,852	4,617
West Khándesh ...	205,166	1,834	462,234	2,684
Násik ...	88,822	4,247	69,288	3,062
Ahmednagar ...	32,567	327	25,912	283
Poona ...	94,490	971	31,492	344
Sátára ...	89,651	557	37,751	231
Total ...	1,256,694	15,738	1,079,529	11,221

N.B.—Revenue for 152 cart-loads and 386 head-loads sold in the Násik Division is included in the above figures.

(d).—GRAZING AND FODDER GRASS.

177. This has been dealt with earlier in the report.

(e).—OTHER MINOR PRODUCE.

178. This head includes hirda (the fruit of the *Terminalia chebula*), shikakai (the pod of *Acacia concinna*), rosha oil (*Andropogon schoenanthus*), tarwad (*Cassia auriculata*), leaves of temburni (*Diospyros*), of apta (*Bauhinia*), karvi (*Strobilanthus*), thorns, earth, stones, &c. : the comparative results are as follows in rupees :—

Division.	1895-96.	1896-97.
	Rs.	Rs.
East Khándesh ...	1,208	1,207
West Khándesh ...	14,975	12,030
Násik ...	2,789	2,619
Ahmednagar ...	1,911	1,988
Poona ...	998	2,226
Sátára ...	3,864	3,922
Sholápur ...	84	490
Total ...	25,829	24,482

III.—FREE GRANTS OF FOREST PRODUCE.

179. The following statement shows the value of such grants sanctioned during the past five years :—

Division.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1894-95.	1895-96.	1896-97.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
East Khándesh ...	...	...	...	25	...
West Khándesh ...	458	1,518	671	2,270	1,414
Násik ...	274	369	510	1,477	...
Ahmednagar ...	...	20	41	12	78
Poona ...	628	684	694	392	464
Sátára ...	136	43	110	25	131
Sholápur ...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	1,496	2,634	2,026	4,201	2,087

180. In addition to the above, concession of taking anjan leaves free of charge for fodder was given in the Khándesh and Násik districts; and in West Khándesh the Sátputa Bhils were allowed to take grass in head-loads free for sale throughout the hot weather.

IV.—PRODUCE REMOVED BY RIGHT-HOLDERS.

181. It is impossible to classify or record all that is taken, but there is not the least doubt that a very large sum of money represents the loss to the State in the Forest Department, both in the capital value of the forests and in the commercial value of the timber and other forest produce appropriated, for there is wide evidence to show that forests are seriously injured by the proceedings in the enjoyment or exercise of forest rights and of forest privileges. The Divisional Forest Officer, West Khándesh, reports that he has nothing to add to the remarks made by him in the last year's report as to the disastrous effect of the live wood privileges under the North Tápti Code on the forests of the Sátputas. The Sátputa Bhils were allowed to remove dead and fallen teakwood at low rates towards the end of the hot weather: they promptly abused the privilege by manufacturing dead wood in considerable quantities and the Divisional Forest Officer was obliged to ask the Collector to revoke the concession in consequence.

182. The issue of free grazing permits for the last two years is compared below:—

Division.	Animals.		Value.	
	1885-86.	1886-87.	1885-86.	1886-87.
			Rs.	Rs.
East Khándesh	11,201	15,220	6,885	8,803
West Khándesh	26,185	22,363	14,065	12,994
Násik	79,879	77,643	41,015	38,893
Ahmednagar	5,808	4,622	3,096	2,503
Poona	91,741	120,760	53,140	66,554
Sátára	43,439	52,500	24,771	29,118
Sholápur	6,130	9,456	3,423	4,740
Total	264,383	302,564	1,46,395	1,63,605

183. Thus it will be seen that a larger number of animals has been free-grazed in the forests under issued permits than during the previous year, and that the value of this free grazing is greater. But the above figures do not, as has been explained already, show the whole value of the free grazing enjoyed by village cattle within the forests, for when the scarcity of fodder and the distress amongst cattle became pronounced and additional forest areas were opened to free grazing, cattle were admitted without permits being issued in respect of them, and practically all the able bodied cattle of the Deccan villages went into forest areas when within reach of the villages to pick up whatever they could find to eat.

184. The following statement gives an approximate estimate of the value of forest produce lost to the forest revenue by concessions in the several divisions:—

No.	Division.	Timber.	Firewood.	Bamboos.	Other minor produce.	Grazing and grass.	Total.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1	East Khándesh	215	1,088	300	328	47,721	49,652
2	West Khándesh	1,414	...	...	...	12,994	14,408
3	Násik	601	1,450	...	7,650	68,889	78,590
4	Ahmednagar	129	...	...	600	43,632	44,361
5	Poona	464	1,174	...	2,094	72,305	1,40,441
6	Sátára	130	25,000	...	4,750	43,242	73,122
7	Sholápur	...	9,375	...	...	7,630	17,005
	Total ..	2,953	38,087	300	15,422	3,60,817	4,17,519

185. A statement showing the outturn of timber and forest produce is given in the form appearing in paragraph No. 10 of letter No. ^{859 F.}₁₂₆₋₃, dated 14th September 1896, from the Government of India, as directed in paragraph 9 of Government Resolution No. 8265, dated 21st October 1896, in the Revenue Department:—

Division.	Agency by which material removed.	MATERIAL REMOVED.					AVERAGE OUTTURN PER SQUARE MILE OF ALL FORESTS.		
		Timber.	Fuel.	Total wood.	Bamboos.	Minor produce.	Timber and fuel.	Bamboos.	Minor produce.
		Cub. ft.	Cub. ft.	Cub. ft.	No.	Rs.	Cub. ft.	No.	Rs.
East Khazndesh ...	Government ...	20,960	827,370	848,330	.....	.....	...	...	...
	Purchasers ...	14,146	385,898	400,044	452,852	82,269	...	...	...
	Free grants ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	...	...	...
	Right-holders ...	2,637	96,345	99,032	20,000	48,049	...	...	...
	Total ...	37,793	1,309,613	1,347,406	472,852	1,30,318	1,661	583	161
West Khazndesh ...	Government ...	103,141	467,991	570,132	.....	.....	...	...	...
	Purchasers ...	183,531	97,128	280,659	462,234	1,16,193	...	...	...
	Free grants ...	11,624	.....	11,624	2,600	.....	...	...	...
	Right-holders ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	12,994	...	...	...
	Total ...	297,296	565,119	862,415	464,834	1,29,187	496	268	67
Nasik ...	Government ...	564	3,947	4,411	.....	1,353	...	...	...
	Purchasers ...	529,670	272,142	801,812	69,288	61,951	...	...	...
	Free grants ...	8,359	39,365	47,724	.....	.....	...	...	...
	Right-holders ...	.....	126,150	126,150	.....	76,539	...	...	...
	Total ...	538,593	441,504	980,097	69,288	1,39,844	766	54	109
Ahmednagar ...	Government ...	39,864	9,070	48,934	.....	1,413	...	...	...
	Purchasers ...	.....	33,509	33,509	25,912	40,181	...	...	...
	Free grants ...	3,432	.....	3,432	.....	.....	...	...	...
	Right-holders ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	41,232	...	...	...
	Total ...	43,296	42,579	85,875	25,912	85,826	101	31	101
Poona ...	Government ...	20,178	566,160	586,338	.....	1,282	...	...	...
	Purchasers ...	23,525	351,367	374,892	31,492	42,354	...	...	...
	Free grants ...	3,005	.....	3,005	.....	.....	...	...	...
	Right-holders ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	74,399	...	...	...
	Total ...	46,708	917,527	964,235	31,492	1,18,035	1,356	44	166
Satara ...	Government ...	81,123	627,260	708,383	.....	16,479	...	...	...
	Purchasers ...	2,233	9,007	11,240	37,751	39,232	...	...	...
	Free grants ...	175	.....	175	.....	.....	...	...	...
	Right-holders ...	.....	4,000,000	4,000,000	.....	47,992	...	...	...
	Total ...	83,531	4,636,267	4,719,798	37,751	1,03,723	6,761	54	141
Sholapur ...	Government ...	.....	1,916	1,916	.....	43	...	...	...
	Purchasers ...	.....	12,200	12,200	.....	30,537	...	...	...
	Free grants ...	.....	1,500,000	1,500,000	.....	.....	...	...	...
	Right-holders ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	7,630	...	...	...
	Total ...	.....	1,514,116	1,514,116	.....	28,210	5,446	...	101
All divisions combined.	Government ...	264,830	2,503,614	2,768,444	.....	20,570	...	...	...
	Purchasers ...	753,105	1,161,251	1,914,356	1,079,520	4,02,738	...	...	...
	Free grants ...	26,595	39,365	65,960	2,600	.....	...	...	...
	Right-holders ...	2,687	4,222,495	4,225,182	20,000	3,11,835	...	...	...
	Total, 1896-97 ...	1,047,217	7,926,725	8,973,942	1,102,129	7,35,143	1,410	173	115

CHAPTER IV.

FINANCIAL RESULTS.

186. The receipts, expenditure and net revenue of this and the preceding year are compared below:—

Year.	Receipts.	EXPENDITURE.			Surplus.
		A.— Conservancy and Works.	B.— Establish- ments.	Total.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1895-96 ...	7,59,605	1,63,449	3,63,758	5,27,207	2,32,398
1896-97 ...	7,04,365	3,03,499	3,89,901	6,93,400	10,964
Increase ...	...	1,40,050	26,143	1,66,193	...
Decrease ...	55,240	...	...	...	2,21,434